



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

(Notes, Queries &c.)

Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not IN ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

We shall be happy to answer, as far as we can, all questions submitted to us.

Communications, &c., not noticed in our present number will receive attention when space permits.

OUR FOURTH COMPETITION QUESTION.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—Although I am much interested to learn somewhat of the views of our worthy sisters, the Hospital and Obstetric Nurses, I am greatly disappointed to notice that our hard-working sisters, the Private and District Nurses, do not appear to have been represented. The hours, &c., for Nurses is so vitally important a topic, with great and far-reaching issues, that really I cannot refrain from asking, "Why is this?" For I should like to see all Nurses who can spare the time to do so, try to answer these questions from time to time, whether they win the prize or not; and I am pleased to find our good friend, Miss Sanderson, has forestalled me, and is leading the van in the matter at issue.

Moreover, another equally great thought has occurred to me, which our entire profession would do well to keep steadily in view; that is, it is the *ideal* time and not the *actual* to which "our fourth competition question" points. For in this age of evolution and development no intelligent woman can afford to close her eyes to the hard fact that our profession is now on the eve, like all other existing organisations, of great and internal reforms; for the work done in the past will not do in the light of the coming days. Let us therefore trim our lamps and be ready, lest from the dreams of the coming battle we may wake to find it past. Time is on the wing.

Further, using the word in its broadest sense, the "well-being" of the profession to which I have the great honour to belong has long lain near my heart. I want to see Doctors, Matrons, Nurses and committees of every creed, country and complexion holding forth the right hand of fellowship; thereby forming a grand and solemn confederation on behalf of the emancipation and the *healing* of all nations. To quote from Goethe, "God help farther and give lights, so that we may not stand so much in our own way; cause us to do from morning to night what is fitting; and give us clear ideas of the consequences of things, so that one may not be like men who complain all day of headache and dose themselves for headache, and every evening take too much wine. May the idea of purity, extending itself even to the morsel I take into my mouth, become ever more luminous to me."

"Let me have the good old times," said an old veteran to me one day. "Well, yes! we want integrity; for without integrity ability is valueless," was my rejoinder. But surely, Sir, these nineteenth century days are the grandest days our tight little island has seen; days of progress and reform, when a man is becoming more of a man, because, whether he wills it or not, *all* the old ropes and chains are breaking off him, and he stands out a man. As "no one save he who renounces self is worthy to rule, or can rule," God help us to carry conscience into every act of life; for however apparently full of promise our life may be, without the *ballast* of moral character it can yield no satisfactory performance.—Yours to serve,

SARAH CLAYTON, M.B.N.A., &c.

15, Tunley Street, Stone, Staff.

"HONESTY IS THE BEST POLICY."

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—To my mind, the suggestion of A. B. Tyson is far too trite for a body of hard-headed and practical women like professional Nurses either to gracefully acquiesce in or to adopt. I would suggest that if Nurses must be anything they must be practical. The "prevention" as well as the "cure" of disease must be studied. And it is no longer possible, be it remembered, to teach men that sorrow and suffering come from God; as all "suffering" is invariably the outcome of some infringement of Nature's laws, which laws man has the power, if he *had* the *will*, to discover and obey.

Moreover, "for man's progress we need a different conception of the Deity than is put before us Sunday after Sunday. Matthew Arnold, in his 'God and the Bible,' tells us that 'at the present moment two things about the Christian religion must surely be clear to anybody with eyes in his head: one is, that men cannot do without it; the other that they cannot do with it as it is.'"

We ought to utilise more the knowledge we possess. As from what I know of Nurses and Nursing, I believe many of them are ready to join me in saying that their ambition is ultimately, if not sooner, to enter the ranks of the

"Choir invisible
Of those immortal dead who live again
In minds made better by their presence, live
In pulses stirred to generosity,
In deeds of daring rectitude, in scorn
For miserable aims that end in self,
In thoughts sublime that pierce the night like stars
And with their mild persistence urge man's search
To vaster issues."

"Let us never cease to wage unyielding scornful war against deceit and imposture, and be remembered as one of those who fought in the face of great difficulties, and with barely a prospect save that of personal loss. We prepared the way for others to sow good seed and reap fruit from the ground we have furrowed and prepared for them."

And now let me courteously suggest to Miss Tyson a thorough revision of the rules set forth in the *Nursing Record* ere the cause she espouses can reasonably hope to find favour in the eyes of professional Nurses generally.—Believe me to be, very sincerely yours,

THE YORKSHIRE MAN, *Alia* AN UNSECTARIAN EYE-WITNESS.

VINCIT VERITAS, OR OMNIA BONA BONIS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—I am pleased to learn, as I do from the *Nursing Record* of September 25, that "A Matron" has been seriously thinking over the suggestions and charges so recently brought against the London Hospital. If all Matrons would do this no doubt great good might yet accrue from these revelations.

For the world to be what it should be we want a different reading of "What shall it benefit if you gain the whole world and lose your own soul?" Men's common-sense should be appealed to as to the absurdity of sacrificing their health, shortening their lives, losing the happiness and delight of this world, by too intense a desire for accumulations of any kind, more especially gold and power.

But why are men so eager in their search for gold? "Because society—the world—does not value men for their brain power, for their thoughtful preservation of mind and body in a sound healthy condition, for the motives that cause and regulate their action; but by the length of their pedigree or their wealth, the possession of money, the getting of which has stifled every feeling of sympathy within." What a strange paradox! How loudly does it speak to us of the pseudo-civilisation we so proudly boast about nowadays!

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